

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Masatsugu HIRAYAMA
Title: IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD AND IMAGE
FORMING APPARATUS
Appl. No.: Not yet assigned
Filing Date: January 25, 2002
Examiner: Not yet assigned
Art Unit: Not yet assigned

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TL
1-28-04



INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and 37 C.F.R. § 1.97

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Submitted herewith on a modified Form PTO-1449 is a listing of documents known to applicant in order to comply with applicant's duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56. A copy of each of the listed document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97-1.98.

The submission herewith of any document is not intended as an admission either that such document constitutes competent prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered to be material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(b). Applicant does not waive the right to take appropriate action to antedate any document that does not constitute a statutory bar and that is determined to be a prima facie prior art reference against the claims of the present application, or to otherwise remove such a document as a competent reference.

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b) within three months of the filing date of the application.

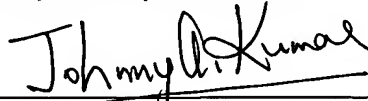
RELEVANCE OF THE DOCUMENTS

Document A2 discloses determining whether a pixel of interest represents part of a character region or a photographic region. Based on this determination, conversion is executed in consideration of a target curve characteristic, in such a manner as to increase the sharpness of a character image.

An English translation of document A2 is not readily available; however, the absence of such translation does not relieve the PTO from its duty to consider the submitted document (37 C.F.R. § 1.98 and M.P.E.P. § 609). An English language abstract is provided for document A2

Applicant respectfully requests that any listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO-1449 be returned in accordance with M.P.E.P. § 609.

Respectfully submitted,



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January 25, 2002

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Form PTO-1449 (MODIFIED)		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTY. DOCKET NO. 016907-1366		SERIAL NO. Not Yet Assigned	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i>				APPLICANT Masatsugu HIRAYAMA			
				FILING DATE January 25, 2002		GROUP ART UNIT Not Yet Assigned	
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER INITIAL	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
U.S. PATENT APPLICATION DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER INITIAL	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	NAME		PRELIMINARY CLASS	FILING DATE	
	A1	09/922,733	Hirayama			8-7-2001	
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO
	A2	2000-333003	11-30-2000	Japan			Abstract
OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)							
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED			
* EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include any copy of this form with next communication to applicant.							